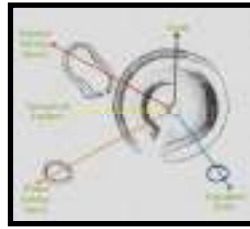


Mounds State Park



School & Group Programs 2011-2012

In addition to regular public programs such as those found on the monthly program schedule, the interpretive service offers private programming for schools, scouts and other groups by reservation. The following information should help you plan an eventful and educational trip that is sure to leave an impression on your group.

Mounds State Park, established in 1930, is located in Madison County. It consists of pre-historic, historic, woodland, and water landscapes. Mounds State Park has six miles of hiking trails available year-round which lead visitors through a variety of habitats of flora and fauna. Trails range in difficulty from easy to rugged. Bordered by the beautiful White River, Mounds State Park offers a boat launch for paddling which is supported by local liveries during the summer season.

The newly renovated pool, splashpad, and bath house is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Picnic areas are located throughout the park with tables, charcoal grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment, shelters, and play fields. Picnic shelters can be reserved for a fee by calling 1-866-6-CAMP-IN or online at www.camp.in.gov. Otherwise, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tent camping is available for organized youth groups under adult supervision.

The Interpretive Naturalist Service welcomes visitors and groups to the Nature Center – schools, Scouts, organizations, service clubs, and more. Here you'll enjoy natural and cultural exhibits, live animals, hands-on activities, and a wildlife viewing room year-round. The Nature Center also has a multi-purpose room for eating lunch (in the event of poor weather.)

The following programs can be reserved for your group. Additional programs on other topics can often be designed to meet your specific needs and the needs of your students. All times are for one class - groups should be a minimum of 10 and up to 200. Groups of more than 25 students are usually split up into smaller groups and include additional rotation activities. Most programs can be brought to your school or meeting site. More information can be found by calling the Interpretive Center at (765) 649-8128 or by visiting www.interpretiveservices.in.gov.

Mounds History Hike **Our Most Popular Program**

Discover the pre-historic lifestyle of the Adena-Hopewell cultures. Learn how they used the river (transportation/food) and the forest (wood for dug-out canoe, edible plants), and the reasons for mound building (celebration of the solstices and other astrological events.) You'll even try your hand at spear throwing with the hunting tool of the time, the atlatl. [Optional Extensions - Pre-Historic Technology: Points and Pottery, and Archaeology 101 for an additional small fee.]

Program availability: Year-round

Age group: 2nd – 8th grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center or at your site, 60-90 minutes per group

Makin' Tracks

Whose track is that? Learn to quickly and easily identify common Indiana mammals and birds by studying the footprints they leave behind. Find out why tracks are different and what tracks reveal about their maker. Everyone will create a track booklet to take on their next hike or camping trip.

Program availability: Year-round

Age group: Pre-school – 3rd grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center or at your site, 45 minutes per group

Backyard Birding

Our wildlife viewing room creates the perfect place to first discover birding. Students will identify common feeder birds using binoculars and guide books, and learn how to create their own backyard habitat. If the weather is right we may go on a short hike to practice our new birding skills. [Optional Extension: Build a bird suet feeder or hummingbird feeder for an additional fee.]

Program availability: Year-round

Age group: 1st – 8th grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center, 45-60 minutes per group

Fall Leaf Collections

Take the guess work out of collecting leaves. We'll help students build their collections using a dichotomous key to identify trees and leaves. Everyone will gather ten leaves and grasp an understanding of key terms and tree folklore. [Optional Extension: Let's make a booklet and mount the leaves together for a small additional fee.]

Program availability: Year-round

Age group: 2nd – 6th grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center, 60-90 minutes per group

Bronnenberg House Tour

Built around 1840, the Bronnenberg house serves as a wonderful time capsule for park visitors. Frederick Bronnenberg Jr., the builder, recognized the uniqueness of the Mounds, and fought to protect them against looters and farm plow destruction. The conservation efforts of the Bronnenbergs helped preserve the mounds for today's generations. Students can tour the home and hear the story of the Bronnenberg family, their influence, and local legacy.

Program availability: Year-round

Age group: 2nd – 8th grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center, 45 minutes per group

Wild Edibles and Medicinal Plants Hike

Native Americans and early pioneer settlers valued many forest plants for their medicinal and edible properties. Mounds State Park hosts an abundance of these wildflowers and berries during the spring and summer months. Students will stroll through the woods and encounter fifteen beautiful plants. We'll uncover their hidden benefits and even have a wild snack!

Program availability: Spring and early Summer Seasons Only

Age group: 2nd – 8th grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center, 60-75 minutes per group

Spring Wildflower Hike

From March to May, the forest floor is carpeted with spring wildflowers. Discover how these hardy little plants have adapted to grow, survive, and pollinate in such a small, and often cold, window of time. Students will learn to identify approximately ten wildflowers by color, leaf shape, and flower petals.

Program availability: Spring and early Summer Seasons Only

Age group: 2nd – 8th grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center, 60-75 minutes per group

Travel Thru Time

The history of Mounds State Park is exciting and diverse. Students will explore the woods to find remnants spanning several centuries of park history. This hike looks at changes in land use over time. Topics include the amusement park, the interurban railroad station, the Bronnenberg farmstead, and, of course, the Native American mounds.

Program availability: Year-round

Age group: 2nd – 8th grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center, 60-75 minutes per group

Habitat Trail

This program introduces children to the wonders of the woods. Together we'll take a short walk through the woods and encounter the homes of different kinds of animals. This interactive walk stimulates the senses by providing opportunities for children to touch furs, peak in a bluebird box, and learn new vocabulary. An upper level version of this hike, **Ecosystem Exploration**, further explores the park's unique habitats, such as woodland, riparian, wetland, and river ecosystems.

Program availability: Year-round

Age group: Pre-school – 3rd grade; 4th - 8th grade upper level program

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center, 30-60 minutes per group

Herps 101: Reptiles and Amphibians

Have you ever touched a snake or held a toad? Get up close and personal with our Nature Center critters! Discover the world of cold-blooded animals and see what make reptiles different from amphibians. Then gather some interesting and fun facts about their diets, habitats, and adaptations for survival during this live animal program.

Program availability: Year-round

Age group: Pre-school – 6th grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center or at your site, 45-60 minutes per group

Geology Rocks!

When the last Ice Age glaciers melted approximately 10,000 years ago, they deposited rock material and carved out the river bluffs, creating Indiana's modern topography. The deposited sediment formed layers that over time became compressed and hardened. The bedrock of Mounds State Park consists of sedimentary rocks like limestone, dolomite, and flint. Students will gain a basic understanding of Indiana's geologic history by closely examining and identifying different types of rocks. We'll also take a hike to the river to see the effects of water on rock and search for the lost caves of Mounds State Park.

Program availability: Year-round

Age group: 4th – 8th grade

Min./Max. group size: 10 / 200 (split into smaller group rotations)

Location & length: Mounds State Park Nature Center, 60-75 minutes per group

Mounds offer many natural and cultural history programs for all age groups and grades - hands-on nature programs for youngsters, Mounds and Indiana history for elementary and middle school age kids, in-depth programs about wildlife sciences, resource conservation, and environmental management for higher grades. We can incorporate your current class curriculum into any interpretive program, including additional physical education and the arts. Program costs are just \$1/person and the entrance fee is waived. These programs also include a trip to our new nature center. Call to schedule a program today (765) 649-8128.